

# Redmond 2022



## Great Places

**T**his summer, the City asked citizens to identify Redmond's best community gathering places. The survey, which was conducted at Derby Days and on the City's web site, was a response to the expressed desire by many Redmond community members to retain and enhance community gathering places where people can meet with friends, recreate, or simply relax. In support of this interest, the Planning Commission recommended and the City Council endorsed policies to emphasize and help achieve this idea.

Those who responded to the survey identified Marymoor Park (a county park), Redmond Town Center, and the Sammamish River Trail as three of the best community gathering spots in Redmond. Respondents gave diverse reasons for picking these spots. Marymoor is popular for the range of activities available and its open space and history. Town Center garnered praise for its pedestrian scale, summer artist series, diversity of shops, and great informal meeting places. Community members enjoy the Sammamish River Trail alone or with family, friends, and pets; before, during or after work; and for recreation, commuting, relaxing, and sightseeing.

The survey also asked about where Redmond could establish great community gathering places in the future. The historic downtown area, downtown in general, and the old BNSF train tracks rated highly. Community members saw potential to transform the historic area of downtown into a destination for those who live and work in Redmond. This could be accomplished by adding or improving

a park, making the area more pedestrian friendly, and capitalizing on the existing "Old Town" feel. Respondents saw room for improvement in downtown's traffic flow, perhaps by eliminating one-way streets or setting aside areas specifically for pedestrians; making better connections with Redmond Town Center; thematically decorating downtown streets; and encouraging businesses that offer evening activities. Finally, community members visualized the current BNSF train tracks as a future multi-use path or public transit corridor.

Many thanks to those who put their time and effort into giving thoughtful feedback!

## Hot Topics at the Planning Commission

**D**uring the summer, the Planning Commission completed its recommendation to City Council on policy updates for several elements of the Comprehensive Plan, including Downtown, Community Character and Historic Preservation, Housing, Land Use, Economic Vitality, Human Services, and Transportation. The City Council held several study sessions to review, discuss, and adopt these recommendations. Check out the City's website at [www.redmond.gov/intheworks/Redmond2022](http://www.redmond.gov/intheworks/Redmond2022) for a summary of completed updates, or call City staff at 425-556-2411.

The Planning Commission is currently working on the final group of updates to the Comprehensive Plan. Many of the elements in this group guide the facilities and services essential to achieving the community's vision for Redmond's future.

**T**he City continues to move forward in updating Redmond's Comprehensive Plan and putting the updates into action. Read on for news on what's happening, including an overview of significant topics the Planning Commission and City Council are discussing now.



## Parks, Recreation and Arts

The Parks, Recreation, and Arts Element highlights Redmond's beautiful natural setting and its commitment to retaining it. It also recognizes that Redmond has a tradition of maintaining high-quality parks, trails, and open spaces and that the City should work hard to maintain and build on that tradition.

The proposed update identifies special natural features in Redmond, such as Lake Sammamish and the Sammamish River. It encourages the creation of smaller, local parks and privately developed "pocket parks" when feasible, and promotes the development of linked community gathering places. The update also places

The proposed update reflects two major changes since the last significant update: final adoption of the Urban Growth Area and the incorporation of Sammamish. Both events significantly reduce Redmond's Potential Annexation Area. The proposal also includes a policy regarding equestrians, keeping with Redmond's intent to maintain high-quality multi-use trails and its commitment to preserving rural lands.

## Utilities

This element contains policies directing the City's planning with regard to water, sewer, stormwater, solid waste, electricity, natural gas, telecommunications, and hazardous liquid pipelines. The intent of the element is to ensure that all utilities – City-owned or not – are able to accommodate planned growth through 2022. The element

describes the current inventory of facilities and provides guidance for projected future needs.

## Capital Facilities

Capital facilities include Redmond fire stations, the Redmond Police facility, streets, sewers, stormwater pipes, parks, and more. Each type of facility is designed or built to provide a certain level of service to the community. The element takes stock of existing capital facility inventory; establishes the Capital Facility Plan, which weighs the expected revenues and costs of capital facilities; and then sets policy on how the City can finance capital facilities in the long term.



A very necessary step in achieving community goals for facility and service improvements is the update of functional plans: the detailed, long-range plans concerning needs, funding, and timing for improvements. Proposed updates to the Capital Facilities element more clearly guide what functional plans should include, and how they should be updated to ensure they are consistent with and support land use and community character goals in the Comprehensive Plan.

The proposal continues to emphasize that impact fees should pay for growth-related costs. The proposed policies also describe issues to be addressed in the Capital Facility Plan, capital facility financing, and the role of identifying land needed for public purposes.

## Participation and Evaluation

The emphasis of this new element is to encourage public participation in planning for Redmond's future and to ensure fairness and predictability in the process. One major proposal is to require the development of an action strategy for Plan implementation. The proposal also strengthens policies calling for progress monitoring.

*The Planning Commission and City Council will continue to work hard on proposed updates this fall. For more information about Comprehensive Plan updates, please contact Lori Peckol at 425-556-2411 or [lpeckol@redmond.gov](mailto:lpeckol@redmond.gov), or visit the City's website at [www.redmond.gov](http://www.redmond.gov).*



a stronger emphasis on the arts. Finally, the proposal identifies certain portions of the Trails Network as important links in the City's non-motorized transportation system.

## Annexation and Regional Planning

This element supports Redmond's continued active participation in regional planning with neighboring jurisdictions, including King County. It also sets policies for annexing land in a logical and orderly fashion. Finally, it reinforces Redmond's commitment to maintaining a compact Urban Growth Area, to ensure that growth takes place in existing urban areas with easy access to public services, while rural areas are preserved.